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Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 BIB-01
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
/068 W
----------059196 171630Z /45
O R 171530Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6517
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0744

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

FOR INR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, LU, UR
SUBJ: HOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THEY HAVE PREPARED A DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE SOVIET TRIALS FOR PRIME MINISTER THORN WHICH THEY EXPECT THE PRIME MINISTER TO APPROVE LATE THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 17). THE STATEMENT DEPLORES THE TRIALS, SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE UNDERMINING MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR AND URGES AMNESTY OR AT LEAST DRASTIC REDUCTION OF SENTENCES. WE WILL CABLE FULL TEXT AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

2. CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST OPPOSITION DEPUTY MR. JEAN SPAUTZ SUBMITTED A WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIALS ON JULY 14. QUESTION READS, QUOTE GIVEN THE REACTIONS OF INDIGNATION AND PROTEST GENERATED ALMOST EVERYWHERE IN THE FREE WORLD BY THE LEGAL PROCEDURES WHICH THE SOVIET UNION HAS ENGAGED AGAINST SEVERAL PROMINENT SOVIET DISSIDENTS, MR. JEAN SPAUTZ, CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST DEPTUY ASKS THAT PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT IF HE WILL BE THE INTERPRETER FOR THE LUXEMBOURG PEOPLE IN PROTESTING

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TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES SUCH ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN
CLEAR CONTRADICTION OF THE FINAL HELSINKI ACT. MR.
SPAUTZ ASKS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MIN-
ISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REPLY TO THIS QUESTION IN
WRITING END QUOTE.

3. ALL MAJOR PAPERS EXCEPT THE COMMUNIST "ZEITUNG"
HAVE RUN EDITORIALS CONDEMNING THE TRIALS AND CALLING
FOR STRONG GOL AND WESTERN PROTESTS.

4. AN INCIDENT UNRELATED TO THE TRIALS BUT
OF INTEREST IN THE CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET CLIMATE IN LUX-
EMBOURG OCCURRED AT THE MUSIC FESTIVAL OF ECHTERNACH
ON JULY 16. 22 YEAR OLD SOVIET PIANIST ANDRE GAVRILOV
HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO PERFORM BUT WAS REPLACED AT THE
LAST MINUTE BY THE RUSSIAN PIANIST MARC ZELSTER WHO
LEFT THE SOVIET UNION SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO LIVE IN THE
WEST. FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS TOLD US THAT THE SOVIET
EMBASSY IN LUXEMBOURG INFORMED THEM BY TELEPHONE SEVERAL
DAYS AGO THAT GAVRILOV WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE
CONCERT AS HE HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED AN EXIT VISA. THIS
INCIDENT HAS BEEN ANOTHER SOURCE OF ADVERSE PRESS
COMMENT ON DENIALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET
UNION. SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOSSAREVA ATTENDED THE
CONCERT AND THE RECEPTION FOR ZELSTER WHICH FOLLOWED
IN SPITE OF HOSTILE PICKETS IN FRONT OF THE CONCERT HALL.
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5. THERE FOLLOWS AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE PROTEST
NOTICE THAT WAS HANDED OUT BY PICKETS AT THE CONCERT.
BEGIN TRANSLATION: FRIENDS AND MUSIC LOVERS, YOU ARE
SCANDALIZED BY THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET PIANIST GAVRILOV
IS NOT ABLE TO PLAY THIS EVENING AS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED.
THIS IS ONLY ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES -- AND THE LEAST --
OF THE POLICY OF THE SOVIET REGIME WHICH LIMITS THE
FREEDOM OF TRAVEL OF ITS CITIZENS CONTRARY TO THE
HELSINKI ACCORDS, SHAKLES FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND
WHICH CONDEMNED IN FARCIAL TRIALS CHTCHARANSKY, GINZ-
BOURG AND PIATKUS WHO DARED TO RAISE THEIR VOICES
AGAINST AN INAMISSABLE DICTATORSHIP.
-- REPRESSION IS THE LOT OF INTELLECTUALS IN THE
USSR WHO CONDEMN TOTALITARIANSIM AND WHO DEMAND
GREATER LIBERTY
-- THE SOVIET REGIME IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A
FIEVRCE ANTI-SEMATIC CAMPAIGN WHICH IT DOESN'T EVEN CAMOU-
FLAGE WITH THE MASK OF ANTI-ZIONISM. THE CARTOONISTS
OF "KROKODIL" LEAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THEIR
PRE-WAR INSPIRATION.
--THE THOUSANDS OF JEWS WHO DARED TO ASK FOR A VISA

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TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION ARE OSTRACIZED FROM SOCIETY,
DEPRIVED OF EMPLOYMENT, TELEPHONE, LODGING AND ARE
PREY TO A VINDICTIVE PUBLIC.
DURING THIS EVENING WHICH SHOULD HAVE PERMITTED
A GREAT SOVIET ARTIST TO PERFORM ABROAD, LET US RISE
IN SOLEMN PROTEST AGAINST THESE TOTALITARIAN PROCEDURES
DIRECTED AGAINST MEN WHOSE SOLE CRIME IS TO HAVE WISHED
TO EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS. SIGNED THE 35, LUXEMBOURG
COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR JEWS IN THE USSR. END TRANS-
LATION. LOWENSTEIN

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